

XM Satellite Radio provides variety and quality of radio that is not available anywhere else. This is a service I pay for and it is wrong to suggest that broadcasting local traffic and weather for selected cities is something that should not be available on satellite radio. We live in a rural part of the country - where many miles are not covered by reliable ground wave carriers. Secondly, the ability to gain instant weather information such as through XM satellite radio can be lifesaver for us. Thirdly, when I travel to a city like Phoenix, I can obtain vital and instant traffic and weather information while navigating on freeways in a town I am not used to driving in without trying to search on the car radio for a station that is occasionally broadcasting traffic information. It is a lot safer for us to utilize our XM satellite radio to assist us. A couple of month ago, when my wife and I were in Phoenix, we were caught in a serious freeway accident where several cars had just crashed into each other in front of us and suddenly behind us. By turning on my XM satellite radio, I was able to figure out immediately exactly how far ahead of us the accident scene was (1/4 mile) and take appropriate action to exit the freeway and avoid getting entangled in a potential accident. If I had to start a search for a local station that might occasionally carry traffic and weather (at midday), I would have been in harms way a lot longer. Satellite radio is not hurting local stations - we pay for the right to listen to XM satellite radio. It not right for those of us who are willing to pay for satellite radio to allow the National Association of Broadcasters (some of whose members own large financial stakes in satellite radio) to dictate what we can be permitted to hear to those members of the public who are willing to pay for radio subscription services. The NAB has in the past and is trying with this effort to muzzle this new technology and restrict its ability to grow. Now it is trying to narrowly define what satellite radio can broadcast. I am reminded that when satellite TV started - it was similarly opposed by local TV stations. Competition continues to be the way American businesses gets better and better at delivering services. We rely on the FCC to protect stations from interfering with each other but not from competing with each other.

Respectfully we urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160 and to support XM's ability to provide the kind of programming that we are willing to pay for and we demand and deserve.

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